

Open Lands Board Meeting
May 17, 2007, 7:30pm-9:30pm
County Commissioners Meeting Room

Board Attendees:

Phil Connelly	Kent Myers	Paul Wilson
Dan Dunagan	Mike Pflieger	
Jim Ellingson	Steve Powell	Planning Staff:
Rob Johnson	Craig Siphers	Vanessa Perry
Dan Kraft	Tim Tackes	Laura Robinson
Gary Leese	John Vore	Karen Hughes
Alan Maki	Dan Walker - Chair	

- I. Meeting Called to Order – Dan Walker, Chair called meeting to order at 7:35PM
 - Introduction of Steve Powell with the Land Trust sitting in for John Ormiston.
 - A. Roll Call (See Attachment A, Roll Call Sheet)
 - i. Absentee Members
 1. Tim Tackes (absent-unexcused)
 2. John Vore (absent – excused)
 3. John Ormiston (absent – excused, represented by Steve Powell)
 - B. Review and approval of Minutes – April 19, 2007 Meeting
 1. Robert’s Rules of Order we should be using the terminology “moved” instead of “motioned” for the approvals and will do so from this point forward.
 2. Discussion on length and detail of minutes. Outline style such as was used in the first meeting was agreed to by the members.
 3. Karen Hughes stated digital recordings are to be kept for a minimum of 5 years but our archives show that we keep them longer.
 4. Gary Leese moved to approve the minutes from the April 19, 2007 Open Lands Board Meeting. Paul Wilson seconded. The minutes stand approved.
 - C. Amendments to Agenda
 1. There were none
 - D. Public comment – Items not on the agenda
 1. There was none
- II. Old Business
 - a. Technical & Conservation Committee Report- potential proposed motion
 - Mike Pflieger said that the committee has narrowed the review materials and scoring down to a much more lean and user friendly version.
 - Established a minimum point value of 50.
 - Discussion on minimum score, special attributes and site visits
 - Planning Department has received additional projects from Missoula County that can be used to test the criteria. Vanessa will work with Technical and Conservation subcommittee on the Missoula projects into example case studies

appropriate for the Bitterroot. Open Lands Board members were encouraged to run these projects through to become familiar with the criteria before the next meeting in June. Reminder that the guidelines document supports the scoring criteria.

1. Board Discussion

- Committee stated they were willing to do official site-visits to help keep the number of people present to a minimum. The need to have a quorum present was discussed.
- Steve Powell said that since the Open Lands Board is asking for public funds they might have to stand the heat but doesn't anticipate a large crowd.
- Discussion on public notices, community outreach and education.
- Paul asked if the last sentence on page two of the guideline document has been changed to say, *the whole board*? Dan stated that it had been taken care of.
- Discussion on steps for reviewing a proposal.
- Members agreed on process as outlined in the application procedure checklist document with amendments.
- Members agreed to work on case study example projects before the next meeting. Case studies will be available 1 week prior to the June meeting.
- Members want 60 day deadline wording removed.
- Discussion on project evaluation process.
- Vanessa presented the board with a copy of the application procedure checklist
- Discussion on process for appeal.
- Board can deny but applications will still go to the commissioners.
- Discussion regarding Commissioners being invited to site visits.
- Agreement on full board site visit. The full Board may make a visit to the property additionally if they deem it necessary.
- Discussion on deadline for last application each calendar year.
- Recommendation for November 15 deadline each calendar year. Land owners should recognize and plan ahead to anticipate problems.
- Mike – what happens if this is an ag. property? How do we keep the process moving forward.
- Discussion recommended for panel discussion at next meeting. Go with open communication process for now, doesn't tie hands, keeps things open and transparent.
- Steve – the land owner will want that protection. Just because you said you would give them the open lands money they still have to file the easement. I think it would be fair to put this in a timeline as to whether or not the project will continue.

2. Public comment

- Greg said with the way this has been outlined it will take the board at least a couple of meetings to finalize materials.

3. Board Action

- Gary moved to adopt guidelines document and criteria
- Craig seconded
- All for/none against
- Vanessa will arrange legal review and meeting with Commissioners. Board asked for one week notice to schedule meetings accordingly.

4. BCC action on OLB bylaws

- Board of County Commissioners took action on the Open Lands Bylaws and Open Lands Board is official advisory body.

III. New Business

A. Education and Communication Committee update

- Discussion on panel participants for future meetings
 - June: Land trusts
 - July: Property Owners
 - August: Dale Bickel
- Proposal of future meet and greet
- Clarification on committee members: Craig Siphers-Chair, Jim Ellingson, Rob Johnson, Dan Kraft, Gary Leese, Kent Myers, Tim Tackes, Paul Wilson.
- Further discussion on guest speakers and invitation list. Trust for Public Lands should be invited, Vanessa will provide contact information.
- Discussion on order of events amount of time needed for June meeting. Meeting will be held from 7:00pm to 9:30pm.
- Discussion on ways to inform the community of this meeting and other educational opportunities. Vanessa and Craig will work to get a press release out.
- Discussion on proper responses to the public if the Open Lands Board members are asked to recommend a land trust.
- Discussion on inviting the governmental agencies, such as the US Fish and Wildlife. Agencies will be invited as a panel to a future meeting.
- Board members are to send potential panel discussion topics to Craig.

(The recording for the remainder of the meeting was lost. The minutes below reflect the best recollection available)

B. Discussion- Roles and Responsibilities of subcommittees

- Board agreed that the roles had generally already been discussed already.

C. Schedule of Proposed Events

- Vanessa presented timeline/schedule developed by Dan Walker and staff.

IV. Ravalli Planning Staff: Updates and Report

1. Vanessa presented proposed fee schedule.

- It was agreed that the guidelines document should be free.
- The Board moved to adopted the fee schedule with the discussed changes, the motion was made and seconded, and all members voted for.

- Vanessa will send the fee schedule to legal council and to the BCC.

2. Conservation easement map

- Discussion on map showing current conservation easements in the valley. Staff will create more detailed maps.

V. Future meeting dates, proposed agenda items and guest speakers

VI. Adjourn – Dan Walker 9:34 PM